



CITY OF HOUSTON

Bill White

Mayor

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To: Community Partners

From: David E. Persse, MD
Local Health Authority 
Houston Department of Health and
Human Services

Date: October 14, 2004

Thru: David R. Miller, Bureau Chief
Immunizations

As you know, Chiron Corporation will not be able to distribute its influenza vaccine for the 2004-2005 flu season. The Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) planned to order vaccine from Chiron, through the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Therefore, the health department has no flu vaccine for the adult population and no means of acquiring vaccine at this time. We will only provide vaccine for VFC eligible children 0 to 18 years that fall within CDC and ACIP recommendations. We are encouraging the residents of Houston to take a proactive stance and protect themselves as much as possible from contracting the flu. We have gathered information that is critical in reducing flu transmission and we hope that you will share with clients, parents, and staff.

There are individuals that meet qualifications for receiving the flu shot this year and we are encouraging them to check with their personal physician to obtain the flu vaccine. Others, who do not fit the high risk profile, should be advised to forego or defer the flu vaccine this year. Your assistance in delivering risk reduction messages related to flu transmission is appreciated.



October 12, 2004

RE: **Houston – Harris County Flu Vaccine Shortage Response Plan**

Dear Health Care Provider:

As you know, the United States is facing a shortage of approximately 48 million doses of influenza (flu) vaccine, leaving a shortfall of nearly 50% of the nation's anticipated supply for the 2004-2005 flu season. Specifically, the shortage results from last week's announcement by Chiron Corporation that the company's license to manufacture Fluviron® in its Liverpool, England facility was suspended for three months. As a result, no Fluviron® will be available for distribution in the U.S. for the current flu season.

In addition to the **overall shortage**, we are also facing the challenge **uneven distribution** of vaccine across the nation. For example, some health care facilities (e.g. hospitals, physician offices, pharmacies) may have received supplies that exceed the numbers of patients they have in high-risk categories, while other facilities have received no doses whatsoever.

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) urgently seek your assistance to ensure that our community's vulnerable populations are protected.

In order to ensure we use our community resources efficiently, HDHHS and HCPHES are working together to implement a vaccine shortage response plan that includes the coordination of vaccine distribution and re-distribution in our area. **As a result, we strongly recommend that all health care providers in the Houston-Harris County area:**

- **educate your patients** about who should get vaccinated and about other ways to prevent flu (see attached information sheets)
- **restrict flu vaccine** only to those of your patients that meet CDC guidelines for being at greatest risk from serious complications of flu (see attached information sheets)
- **complete the attached survey** and return by fax or email by **Thursday, October 14, 2004** to either HCPHES or HDHHS (see contact information with survey)

Thank you in advance for joining us in this important effort to protect our community to the maximum extent possible under these challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Williams
Director, HDHHS

Herminia Palacio, MD, MPH
Executive Director, HCPHES

Is it a **Cold** or the **Flu**?

Check your symptoms, and ask your doctor for advice.
Remember, a **flu shot** is your best protection against the flu.

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare in adults and older children, but can be as high 102°F in infants and small children.	Usually 102°F, but can go up to 104°F and usually last 3 to 4 days
Headache	Rare	Sudden onset and can be severe
Muscle aches	Mild	Usual, and often severe
Tiredness and weakness	Mild	Can last 2 or more weeks
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Sudden onset and can be severe
Runny nose	Often	Sometimes
Sneezing	Often	Sometimes
Sore throat	Often	Sometimes
Cough	Mild hacking cough	Usual, and can become severe

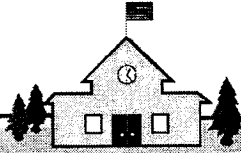
For more information

Ask your health care provider or call the CDC Immunization Hot Line

English: 1-800-232-2522 Español: 1-800-232-0233 www.cdc.gov/nip/flu



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Germ-Free Zone



- Don't spread germs.
- No transmita microbios.



- Cover your cough.
- Tápese la boca al toser.



- Wash your hands often.
- Lávese sus manos con frecuencia.

Zona Sin Microbios



Germ-Free Zone



- Đừng làm lây lan vi trùng.
- Tsis txhob kis kabmob rau lwmm tus.
- ចូរកុំចម្លងមេរោគទៅអ្នកដទៃ
- ម៉ាធរង់ខ្លះចម្លងជំងឺឈាមបាន .
- Don't spread germs.



- Che miệng khi ho.
- Npog qhov-ncauj thaum hnoos.
- ត្រូវគ្របមាត់របស់អ្នកនៅពេលក្អក
- ប្រើទីតាំងដៃរបស់អ្នកនៅពេលក្អក .
- Cover your cough.



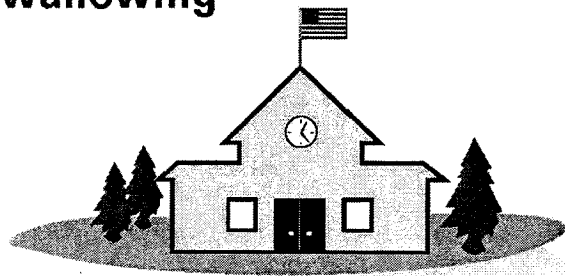
- Thường xuyên rửa tay.
- Nquag ntxuav koj ob txhais tes.
- ត្រូវលាងដៃរបស់អ្នកឲ្យបានញឹកញាប់
- ទឹកសាប៊ូប្រើប្រាស់ត្រូវបានផ្តល់ឲ្យ .
- Wash your hands often.

Keep Our School Healthy

**Check your students
for these signs of illness:**



- ✓ Coughing, with other signs of illness
- ✓ Fever or Chills
- ✓ Sore throat or trouble swallowing
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Muscle aches
- ✓ Sneezing
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Breathing trouble
- ✓ Unusual spots or rashes



**Send a
sick child
home**

Stop the spread of disease at school.

**Don't spread cold
and flu germs.
Don't make people sick.**

***¡Pare la propagación
de gérmenes que lo enferman
a usted y otras personas!***

Cover Your Cough *Cubra su tos*

**Cover your mouth and
nose when you cough.**

*Cubra su boca
y nariz cuando
tosa o estornude.*



**Use a tissue or
sneeze into your
upper sleeve.**

*Tosa o estornude
en un pañuelo o
en la manga
de su camisa.*

**Place used
tissue in a
trash can.**

*Deseche el
pañuelo sucio
en un basurero.*

Clean your Hands *Lavése las Manos*

**After coughing
or sneezing.**



*después de toser
o estornudar.*

**Wash with soap
and water or an
alcohol-based
hand cleaner.**

*Lávese con agua
tibia y jabón o
límpiase con un
limpiador de manos
a base de alcohol.*

**Houston Department of
Health and Human Services**

